

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 16898 130444Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T CAIRO 16898

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PEPR EG JO

SUBJECT: TALK WITH MUBARAK ABOUT BETTER EGYPTIAN/
JORDANIAN CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) CAIRO 16801, (B) AMMAN 5861

1. IN COURSE OF MY MEETING THIS MORNING WITH ACTING
PRESIDENT MUBARAK, I GAVE HIM JORDANIAN REACTION TO
OUR DEMARCHE ON LONDON TALKS (SEPTTEL/NOTAL). I THEN SAID
THAT I WISHED TO PASS ON TO HIM, INFORMALLY, A COMMENT
OF OUR AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN, WHO IS AN EXPERIENCED OBSERVER
OF THE JORDANIAN SCENE. VARIOUS JORDANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE
FROM TIME TO TIME COMMENTED TO AMBASSADOR PICKERING THAT
IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF EGYPT CONSULTED MORE REGULARLY
WITH JORDAN ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. THEY BELIEVE,
AND PICKERING SHARES THIS VIEW, THAT SUCH REGULAR CON-
SULTATION COULD AVOID SOME MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH HAVE
FROM TIME TO TIME ARISEN BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. I
MENTIONED PICKERING'S HIGH REGARD FOR HIS EGYPTIAN
COLLEAGUE AND BELIEF THAT LATTER COULD MORE EFFECTIVELY
BE USED TO FACILITATE A REGULAR EGYPTIAN/JORDANIAN
DIALOGUE ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. I EMPHASIZED

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THAT I WAS NOT MAKING POINT FORMALLY, NOR WAS I MAKING
ANY RECOMMENDATION, BUT I THOUGHT MUBARAK MIGHT BE
INTERESTED IN OUR AMBASSADOR'S CONSIDERED VIEW.

2. MUBARAK'S INITIAL RESPONSE WAS THAT GOE CONSULTS
REGULARLY WITH JORDANIANS. HE RECALLED THAT SIX WEEKS
AGO HE HAD MET WITH KING HUSSEIN IN AMMAN AND THAT

RECENTLY FONMIN KAMEL HAD SPOKEN TO JORDANIAN MINSTATE HASSAN IBRAHIM. SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVELY, MUBARAK COMMENTED THAT HUSSEIN SAYS ONE THING TO THE EGYPTIANS AND GIVES A TOTALLY DIFFERENT VERSION OF WHAT WAS SAID TO THE SAUDIS. THIS TACTIC, MUBARAK CONTENDED, ONLY SOWS CONFUSION. HE ALSO RECALLED SADAT'S VIEW THAT HUSSEIN WILL NOT ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS UNLESS ALL OF THE "DIRTY WORK" HAS FIRST BEEN DONE. I SAID THAT I WAS NOT SEEKING TO CAST BLAME ON ANYONE, BUT WAS SIMPLY PASSING ON AN OBSERVATION. CLEARLY PRESIDENT SADAT IS THE BEST JUDGE OF WHAT SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT BE DONE WITH RESPECT TO CONSULTATIONS WITH THE JORDANIANS. I SAID THAT I RECALLED MUBARAK'S VISIT TO AMMAN AND KAMEL'S RECENT TALK WITH HASSAN IBRAHIM, BUT ASKED IF THERE HAVE BEEN ANY OTHER RECENT INSTANCES OF DIALOGUE. MUBARAK ACKNOWLEDGED RATHER SHEEPISHLY THAT HE KNEW OF NONE. HE ADDED THAT PERHAPS GOE SHOULD HAVE SENT KING HUSSEIN A COPY OF ITS WEST BANK/GAZA COUNTERPROPOSAL AS IT HAD DONE IN THE CASE OF THE SAUDIS. SINCE THE PLAN HAS NOW BEEN PUBLISHED AND USG HAS IN ANY CASE GIVEN HUSSEIN A COPY, IT WAS PROBABLY TOO LATE FOR GOE TO REDRESS THIS PARTICULAR ERROR. MUBARAK SAID THAT HE WILL MENTION THE MATTER TO SADAT, BUT EXPRESSED THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH CONFIDENCE IN HUSSEIN TO BELIEVE THAT A CONTINUING CONSULTATION WITH THE JORDANIANS IS LIKELY TO BE FRUITFUL.

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3. I SUBSEQUENTLY MENTIONED THE SAME THING TO USAMA AL BAZ, WHO EXPRESSED PERSONAL AGREEMENT THAT GOE HAS BEEN DELINQUENT ON THIS SCORE. AL BAZ AGREED THAT EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO JORDAN IS ONE OF THEIR BETTER MEN AND COULD BE MORE EFFECTIVELY USED. AL BAZ ALSO ASSERTED THAT KAMEL WOULD LIKE A MORE SUSTAINED DIALOGUE WITH THE JORDANIANS, BUT IS PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY SADAT'S PERSONAL DISTRUST OF HUSSEIN. AL BAZ SAID HE WILL TRY TO PUT A BUG IN KAMEL'S EAR TO CONTINUE TO URGE SADAT TO BE ALLOWED TO CONDUCT A MORE REGULAR DIALOGUE WITH THE JORDANIANS EITHER THROUGH THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN OR THROUGH THE JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR HERE.

4. WE WILL HAVE TO SEE WHAT COMES OUT OF THIS. EILTS

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NNN

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